

# KOUTNIK A WITNESS BEFORE POLICE OFFICIALS.

In the Presence of District-Attorney Gardiner, Chief Devery and Alvin Harpster Absolutely Freed from Suspicion by the Police. Captain McClusky, He Picks Out a Detective as the Man Who Gave Him the Fatal Package.

WILLIAM C. KOUTNIK, who told an extraordinary story of having received the Cornish poison package from the hands of one of the suspects in the case, and having mailed it in the general Post Office in this city on December 23 last, reaffirmed his statement in detail yesterday at Police Headquarters in the presence of District-Attorney Gardiner, Chief of Police Devery and Captain McClusky.

He told the whole story over, varying in no detail from the version he had previously given for publication.

He repeated with firmness the declaration that he remembered distinctly the man who handed him the package, and could pick him out from among any number of men if he would speak in the same tones as used that day.

After hearing his recital and playing him with many questions Captain McClusky decided to make test of the accuracy of Koutnik's recollection.

The Test of Koutnik.

One of the detectives who in general appearance resembles the man indicated by Koutnik's story was brought into the room where the young man was seated in company with the District-Attorney and the two foremost of the police officials.

Captain McClusky's stenographer was also at hand. The detective entered, wearing his hat, which he removed a moment after coming into the room.

Captain McClusky told Koutnik to step forward and scrutinize the newcomer carefully, cautioning him to take his time and say nothing hastily. Koutnik approached to within three or four feet, and gazed intently upon the man for a space of five minutes.

While he was studying the detective's face Captain McClusky told Koutnik to step up closer if he wished and make his examination thorough.

Koutnik moved forward until only a foot separated them.

"Not once," said Koutnik afterward, "did he look me squarely in the eye, but kept looking away from me."

Picks Out the Wrong Man.

"Do you recognize this man?" asked Captain McClusky.

Koutnik hesitated, then without answering, walked slowly back to his chair. Standing there, he said: "Yes, I believe I do."

"Is it the man who handed you the package?"

Koutnik answered that he believed it was. The detective, Chief Devery and Captain McClusky questioned Koutnik further.

The upshot of the interrogation was that Koutnik said the man who had left the room was the man who had given him the package. He suggested, however, that if the man indicated by the facts of his story were inspected, this man was second in the line and Koutnik again singled him out.

Placing his hand on the detective's shoulder, he said: "You are the man who gave me the package."

The six men from among whom he had made his selection then left the room.

"I Am Positive."

"You are sure, are you?" said Captain McClusky, "that that is the man?"

"I am positive," said Koutnik.

Chief Devery then repeated the query, and Koutnik reaffirmed his belief.

District-Attorney Gardiner asked Koutnik if he was willing to swear to his identification. He answered that he was quite willing to do so.

That ended the session. District-Attorney Gardiner then rode away in Chief Devery's car.

After leaving Headquarters Koutnik said he was still positive that his identification was correct, but added:

"If that was not the man, then there are two men exactly alike. But I wish I could have heard him talk."

Captain McClusky and Chief Devery declined to say anything concerning Koutnik's story, save that they intended to continue investigation of it.

Further query concerning Koutnik brings to light the fact that he has been accused of having failed to turn over some money collected in New Jersey. He at one time figured in a sensational driving story. A friend of his was dragged from the Hackensack River by a trolley conductor, who said he and Koutnik had been boating and their boat had capsized under the bridge. Koutnik, he said, was drowned, but he himself had been able to clutch the piling of the bridge and so was saved. Koutnik was absent from home some days, but afterward returned in safety. The young man's family is eminently respectable.

## MOLENEUX AND HIS LAWYERS CONFER AGAIN.

Chief Devery and Four Detectives Were Near Them at the Sinclair House.

Roland B. Molineux left his father's house, at No. 117 Fort Greene place, Brooklyn, at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. He went by the elevated road to the Bridge, crossed City Hall Park and boarded a Sixth avenue elevated train at Park place. He left the train at Fifty-fifth street and walked

up to the New York Athletic Club, on Fifty-eighth street. George Gordon Battle and Bartow S. Weeks were waiting for him.

After a conference that lasted twenty minutes in the reception room of the club the three men came out by the Fifty-seventh street entrance and came down to Eighth street. Mr. Molineux walked between Mr. Battle and Mr. Weeks into the office of the Sinclair House at Eighth street and Broadway.

Four Central Office detectives stood on the sidewalk in front of the hotel as the party entered.

For about half an hour Weeks, Battle and Molineux stood at the hotel desk, apparently waiting for some one who did not arrive. While they stood there Chief Devery drove up in a cab and alighted. He glanced through the hotel windows, but did not enter.

"Good night," said Mr. Molineux to his lawyers. They touched their hats and Molineux stepped through the door on Eighth street. He went directly home, arriving there at 7 o'clock.

## HARPSTER ENTIRELY FREE FROM SUSPICION.

The Police Have Not from the First Considered Him in the Light of a Suspect.

The police do not want Mr. Alvin A. Harpster, the former clerk of the Knickerbocker Athletic Club. He is not a suspect, and was never considered seriously in that light.

The published statements tending to show that Mr. Harpster's handwriting resembles the incriminating exhibits in the poison case, made Captain McClusky smile yesterday. He said that the police know all about Mr. Harpster, and there is nothing which has been published about him which was not known by the police two weeks ago.

Mr. Harpster first appeared in the case when Captain McClusky got the Stearns & Co. letter, signed by H. Cornish, making inquiry about the business standing and honesty of Mr. Harpster. Detectives were detailed to look up Mr. Harpster's antecedents. Specimens of his handwriting were obtained and given to Mr. Carvalho, the handwriting expert, and the report to Captain McClusky was to the effect that Mr. Harpster did not write any of the letters nor others which have appeared in the case.

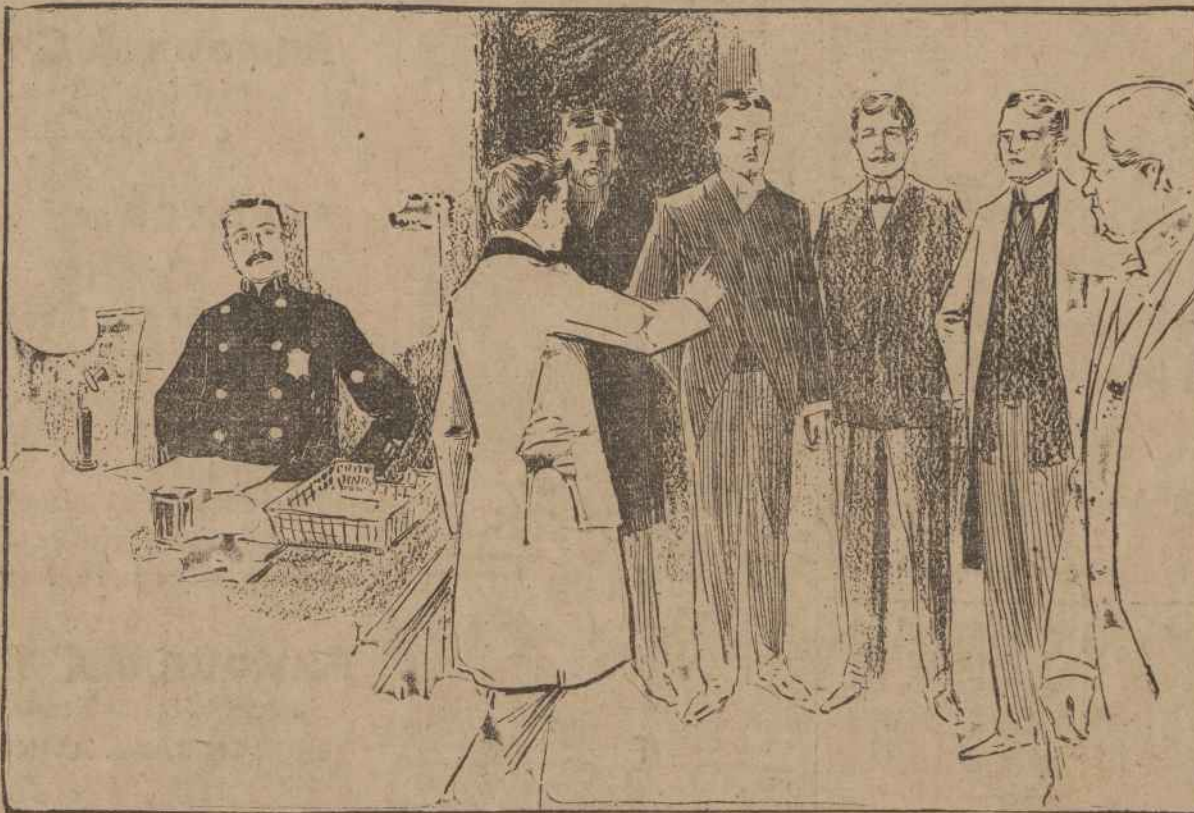
The police demonstrated beyond doubt that Mr. Harpster is not the person who hired the letter boxes at No. 1620 Broadway and No. 257 West Forty-second street under the name of H. Cornish and H. C. Barnett. He does not resemble in any particular the person who did hire them.

## Harpster and Cornish Friends.

The police discovered that the real Harry Cornish, Mr. Barnett and Mr. Harpster have been on the most friendly terms for years, and there was no motive for Mr. Harpster to have made an attempt to kill them.

After the police had cleared up any possible conviction that Mr. Harpster might have had with the case and found that he was not in the class of suspects in any degree, then Captain McClusky sent for Mr. Harpster.

At Police Headquarters Mr. Harpster met



Young Koutnik's False Identification at Police Headquarters.

William C. Koutnik, whose story of being hired to mail the package of poison sent to H. S. Cornish, of the Knickerbocker Athletic Club, which caused the death of Mrs. Kate Adams last month, was examined yesterday at Police Headquarters by Captain McClusky, chief of detectives, chief of Police Devery and District-Attorney Gardiner. He told the same story that he had repeated several times before, but when asked to identify the suspect he named, picked out a member of Captain McClusky's staff. He did not see the man whom he had named, nor hear the voice of the man he picked out of a line of men. The man he selected bears a general resemblance to the suspect he named to the police.

## NEGATIVE FACTS IN THE POISON MURDER MYSTERY.

The police DO NOT want A. A. Harpster.

The police HAVE NOT finished investigating W. C. Koutnik's story.

The police have made NO arrests in the case.

The handwriting experts have unproved their circle of suspicion down to one person.

The HAVE NOT finished their work.

The report of Dr. Witthaus on his investigation of the causes of the death of Mrs. Adams HAS NOT been filed with the Coroner.

The Coroner HAS NOT yet begun his official investigation of the death of Mrs. Adams.

There is NO tangible light on the tragedy.

Harry R. Cornish, and they together looked at the original order for Knickerbocker powder, the Stearns Company letter and the facsimile of the superscription on the poison package sent to Mr. Cornish.

Mr. Harpster said that the handwriting shown resembled that of Felix J. Gallagher, who was clerk in the Knickerbocker Club during the time that Mr. Harpster was employed there. Mr. Harpster saw him write daily, and was familiar with it.

more so than perhaps any other member of the club.

Gallagher Not Accused.

Mr. Harpster did not say that Mr. Gallagher wrote the incriminating order and letter, and went no further than to say that the writing was most remarkably like that of his friend.

Mr. Cornish was just as positive in the similarity of the handwriting to Mr. Gallagher's as was Mr. Harpster. The Knickerbocker powder order was submitted to another clerk and several other members of the Knickerbocker Athletic Club, and they all agreed that the handwriting resembled that of Mr. Gallagher, with which they were familiar.

Mr. Harpster did not volunteer any information and did not say or do anything to make it appear that he believed that Mr. Gallagher had anything to do with setting the poison package to Mr. Cornish. He did not say that the handwriting on the poison package was written by Mr. Gallagher, and he did not hear any one else make a positive statement to that effect.

Captain McClusky's effort to have Mr. Gallagher identified as the person who hired the letter box at No. 1620 Broadway under the name of "H. Cornish" was the result of the expressions regarding the handwriting of Mr. Gallagher by several persons besides Mr. Harpster.

Captain McClusky believes that Mr. Harpster has told him everything that he knows about the poison case, and the police have not had Mr. Harpster under their eyes for nearly two weeks.

"I am entirely indifferent," said Mr. Harpster at a well known sporting resort on Sixth avenue last evening, "as to what is said about me in connection with this case. I know and the police know that I did not send for any drugs under the name of H. Cornish, H. C. Barnett or any other name, that I did not hire any letter boxes

at any place in this city, that I did not send the package containing poison to Mr. Cornish or to Mr. Barnett, that I have been perfectly willing to aid the police in every way and have assisted them in finding out anything that they desired to know about me.

"I have not tried to conceal anything. All the feeling that I have in the matter is based upon the trouble which it may cause my parents in Toledo when they learn of the vicious attempt which has been made by people in the Knickerbocker Athletic Club who have always professed friendship to me to associate me with this horrible crime."

"I do not deny that I am a man about town, attend sporting exhibitions of all kinds when I have the time, but no one has ever suggested, so far as I know, that I would do anything vicious or intentionally wrong or injure any of my friends."

"My reason at the Knickerbocker Athletic Club is without a blemish, my employer has confidence in me and the way I attend to my business, and I have nothing to fear from any investigation which may be made."

## Why He Spoke of Gallagher.

"I did not drag the name of Felix Gallagher into this case. He is my friend, and I would go out of my way to do him a favor instead of injure him. When I said that the writing shown to me at Police Headquarters was Mr. Gallagher's, in my judgment, I know that I was acting from the highest sense of duty."

"I would not screen any one who had been guilty of murder. I do not know who sent the poison package to Mr. Cornish, nor who sent to my old employers, Stearns & Co., asking about my business qualifications. I certainly did not write the letter myself. I wish that I did know the author of the letter, as I would certainly tell it to the proper authorities with the hope that the murderer might be discovered."

"I have not seen a reporter from any paper except the Journal, which has treated me with the utmost fairness, and not a few other newspapers, who seem to think that it is a crime to be a good fellow and retain the friendship among sporting people and business men."

"I do not like to become notorious, but I have no fear, and there is no reason for me to defend myself."

## NO POST OFFICE DATE ON SECOND CLASS MATTER.

The Package, Sent to Cornish Unfortunately Was Subject to This Omission.

Under the methods prevailing in the Post Office Department there is absolutely no way of telling the day nor hour at which a package coming under the head of second class matter was mailed.

The poison package sent to Harry Cornish was tied with a string instead of being sealed, and therefore came under this classification. It is that it was dropped into the box at the General Post Office.

This fact is established by the oval stamp with which the postage stamps are cancelled. It is a hand stamp, and the number, with the words "New York" around the top and a series of horizontal lines across the bottom. In the centre are the letters "P. O." meaning the General Post Office. The cancelling stamps of branch offices have a distinguishing letter in the top left corner.

With this stamp all letters, circulars and packages of the second class are cancelled. If the package, however, is sealed, it is not cancelled in this dated and timed manner. Letters are run through a machine stamp which cancels and postmarks at the same time. When circulars, which come under the head of second-class matter, are cancelled by the machine, the time and date time are removed from the machine.

The Superintendent of the General Post Office, Mr. August Witthaus, who is then called yesterday, said: "The method of treating first and second class matter is prescribed by the laws of the International Postal Union. In all the countries of the world no time nor date is put on second-class letters or packages in postmarking or cancelling them."

## WITTHAUS HAS FINISHED HIS POISON ANALYSIS.

Professor R. August Witthaus has now completed his examination of the contents of the stomach of Mrs. Kate J. Adams and will submit his report to Coroner Hart tomorrow morning. Professor Witthaus has analyzed every particle of matter turned over to him with a view to determining precisely how much cyanide of mercury Mrs. Adams swallowed. He has from time to time communicated verbally the results of his work to the Coroner.

Coroner Hart said yesterday that a date for the inquest had not been definitely fixed. It cannot be held until next week at the earliest.

## SAYS ONE MAN WROTE THE TWO BARNET LETTERS.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Jan. 29.—Members of the firm of Von Mohl & Co. had an opportunity to-day to compare two specimens of the writing of "H. C. Barnett," who, on May 31 last, sent them an order for pills to be sent to box 217, No. 257 West Forty-second street, New York, upon the arrival of the New York Journal containing an exclusive facsimile of a letter sent by Barnett to a New York publisher.

Secretary Pugh declared positively that the Barnett letter in the Journal was written by the same man who sent the order for medicine in May last.

Mr. Pugh indicated points of resemblance between the two handwritings, especially in the capital letters and in the word "oblige," where the writer had in each instance stopped to dot his "i" before finishing the word.

"The person who sent the order to us," said Mr. Pugh, "and the person whose letter to a New York publisher appears in yesterday's Journal, is undoubtedly the same. The letters were written within twenty-four hours of each other, and give an identical address for the transmission of a reply."

"Another circumstance that appears to be absolutely certain is that the writer is a skilled penman. His graceful capitalization and freedom of movement are apparent even in the hasty scrawl."



## THE 68TH REGIMENT WILL BE HOME TO-DAY.

The Brave Soldiers Will Form for the March to the Armory Soon After 10 o'Clock

An Ohio Blizzard Keeps the Regiment Shivering from Cincinnati to Cleveland.

Ovations for the Boys All the Way East, and a Hobson Epidemic in Buffalo.

## Line of March of the 69th.

- Formation: West street, at the foot of Franklin.
- West street to Park place.
- Park place to Mail street (north front of Post Office).
- Mail street to reviewing stand of the New York Journal, Park row.
- Park row across City Hall Plaza and past the Mayor's reviewing stand.
- City Hall Plaza to Broadway.
- Broadway to Twenty-third street.
- Twenty-third street to Fifth avenue.
- Fifth avenue to Fifty-first street.
- Fifty-first street to Madison avenue.
- Madison avenue to Thirty-fourth street.
- Thirty-fourth street to Park avenue.
- Park avenue to Fourth avenue.
- Fourth avenue to the Sixty-ninth Regiment Armory, at the corner of Seventh street and Third avenue.

## THE ORDER OF MARCH.

- Chief of Police Devery.
- Mounted police.
- Veteran Corps of the Sixty-ninth Regiment.
- The Irish Brigade.
- Shields-Corcoran Post, G. A. R.
- Heno Post, G. A. R.
- Veteran Zouaves.
- Hawkins Post, G. A. R.
- Irish Volunteers.
- Discharged men of the Sixty-ninth Regiment.
- St. George Cadets.
- Ancient Order of Hibernians.
- County Cavan Association.
- One Hundred and Sixty-ninth Regiment, which is the official escort of the Sixty-ninth.
- Catholic Protective Band.
- Sixty-ninth Regiment.

Buffalo, Jan. 29.—After much running back and forth, punctuated by regular railroad words, the Sixty-ninth got across from Cincinnati at 9:30 last night, found second stage on the homeward trip.

Every official of the passenger department of the Big Four road met the officers of the regiment at Cincinnati. Nothing was too good for the Irishmen.

The run from Cincinnati to Cleveland was uneventful, save for a realization of the fact of the men that they were going into a country where they have not weather that is cold. A small blizzard was

## SOLDIER POISONING PROVED BY TRUST'S TELEGRAMS.

Agent Advised Them Quality of Meat Supplied Government Was Unimportant.

Generals Miles and Eagan Meet Face to Face in a Hotel at Washington.

Chicago Beef Magnates Break Silence and Talk About the Journal's Expose.

The Journal this morning presents in facsimile some more of the telegrams that passed between the Chicago beef packers and their political agents at Washington during the war investigation which prove that an understanding existed between the Commissary Department and the Beef Trust.

When General Miles made his charges that "embalmed" beef had been furnished the soldiers, and Major Duff produced his analysis of other beef that was loaded with salicylic and boracic acid, G. J. Brine appeared at Washington. The telegram published by the Journal are his. They reveal a condition of affairs unbelievable by anybody who believes in the strict honesty of army officers.

Brine, the agent of the trust that was practically on trial for poisoning the soldiers of the United States, was given an insider's knowledge of all that was going on. General Eagan, the chief of the Commissary Department, was in frequent and confidential consultation with him, advising him for the packers' interests.

Colonel Denby, of the War Commissioners, one of the judges sitting on this great crime, is revealed as even thicker with the political agent than General Eagan. In his telegrams he repeated conversations with Denby, revealing the progress of the Commission's report and its report, though this is supposed to be a state secret, until it is rendered to the President. To him Denby applied for evidence derogatory of Dr. Daly, because Daly attacked the quality of the beef.

Brine hinted broadly at the use of money in connection with his work during the examination of witnesses.

One Lie Displayed.

All along the defenders of the beef have declared it was of prime quality. They are contradicted by the telegrams of one of their own agents reproduced in the Journal to-day.

Agent Galbraith, wiring Armour to put beef in the freezer for a Government contract, specifically advises him that the quality is a matter of no importance.

Here is a facsimile of a telegram to C. M. Favorite, Armour's manager in Chicago. It has not been published before:

Washington, D. C., Jan. 24, 1899.

C. M. F.: Denby worked five hours on his report yesterday afternoon. Was with him from 10 to 12 last night. He says Murdoch will have no further consideration. The only serious point now is the testimony of Daly. The question whether chemicals were used or not is one of Daly's credibility.

He discredits Daly, as statement cannot be reconciled with all those of other witnesses. Prefers not to say this in his report, but will do so if no theory about explaining discrepancy in some other way.

He says can not see where operation was performed except on the vessel. Says beef was

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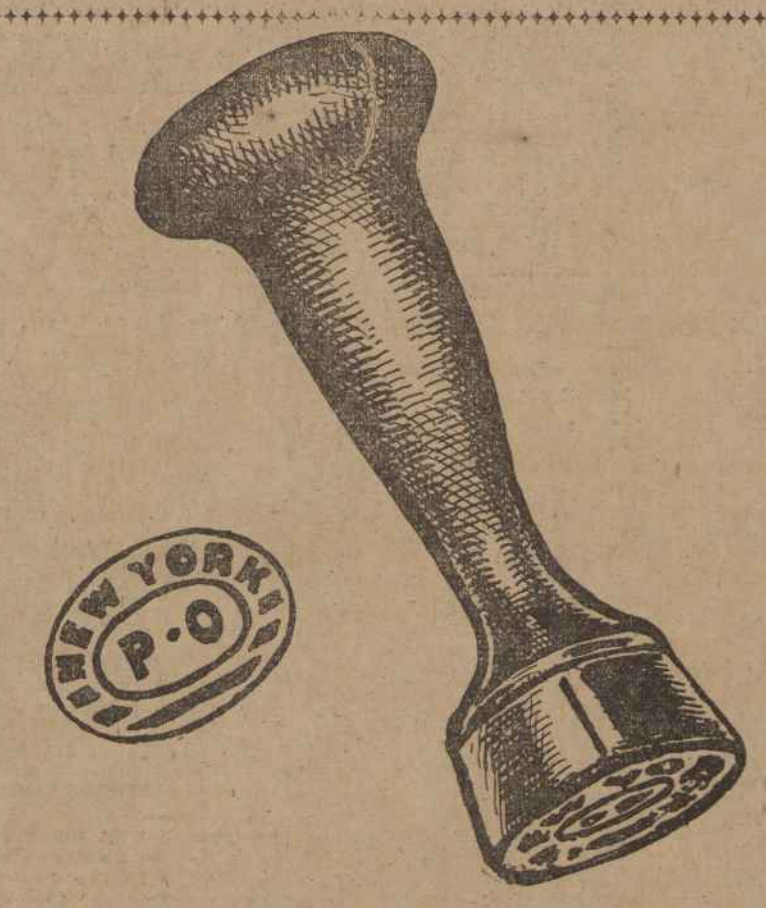
## \$5,000 REWARD FOR THE POISONER.

THE Journal offers a reward of \$5,000 for information which will lead to the apprehension and conviction of the murderer of Mrs. Kate J. Adams.

Grant as is the cunning of the guilty person, his cleverness seems to be reinforced by wealth, by position, by influence. The Journal will enter the lists in behalf of the people, and will itself also see if money will not uncover the poisoner.

The offer is made purely in behalf of justice. It is not intended to reflect discredit upon the faithful work of the police.

The sum of \$5,000 will be paid to the person who furnishes convicting information exclusively to the Journal.



The Cancelling Stamp for Second Class Matter at the General Post Office and Its Imprint.

Second class matter, unlike the first class, is not postmarked with a stamp that shows the date and time of cancellation. The words "P. O." signify only the general post office.